HOWARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Canaan Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Howard College Library

Dolemite Baptist Church,

Jefferson County, Ala.,

September 23rd and 24th, 1887.

OFFICERS:

A. J. WALDROP, MODERATOR.

E. B. WALDROP, CLERK.

The next Session of the Association will be held with the

PRATT MINES CHURCH,

commencing on Friday before the Fourth Sabbath in September, 1888, at 10 A. M.

ROBERTS & SON PRINTERS BIRMINGHAM

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Enrollment of names of delegates.
2. Election of officers.
3. Appointment of standing committees on Finance, Documents and Nominations.
4. Reading of letters from churches.
5. Receiving of newly constituted churches.
6. Receive correspondence.
7. Return correspondence.
8. Miscellaneous business.
9. Report on Foreign Missions.
10. Report on Home Missions.
11. Miscellaneous business.
12. Report on State Missions, 2 o'clock Sunday evening.
13. Report on Sabbath Schools.
14. Report on Temperance, 3 p. m.
15. Miscellaneous business.
16. Report on Finance.
17. Report on Documents.
18. Report on Nominations.
19. Appointment of committees for next session: Foreign, Home and State Missions, Sabbath Schools, Temperance, Church Improvements and Education.
20. Appointment of Board of Directors.
21. Miscellaneous Business.

MINUTES.

WHEELING MINES, ALA., Sept. 23d, 1887.

The Canaan Baptist Association met on Friday, Sept. 23d, 1887, with the Dolomite Baptist church, for the purpose of holding its Fifty-Fourth Annual Session.

At 11 o'clock a. m. the Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. D. I. Purser, from Luke 12:48, "For unto whomsoever much is given, shall be much required."

At 2 p. m. the delegates assembled in the Baptist church and were called to order by the Clerk, the former Moderator being absent. After reading the 46th Psalm, prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Shaekleford. The letters were then brought forward and read by R. J. Waldrop and R. W. Beck, and delegates' names enrolled:

First Baptist Church, Birmingham.—D. I. Purser, G. G. Miles, R. J. Miles.

Second Baptist Church.—H. H. Brown, J. M. Russell, P. E. Cheek.

Third Baptist Church.—J. G. Lowery, J. Tomlinson.

South Side.—J. J. D. Renfroe, A. J. Waldrop, J. C. Hudson, G. T. Green.

Bethany.—

Canaan.—E. L. Morrow, G. W. Cooley, J. N. Smithson.

Cahaba.—M. K. Vann, D. H. Vann.

Central.—J. M. Frazier.

Enon.—J. F. Rogers.

Hopewell.—

New Prospect.—M. T. Branham, E. P. Reed, S. T. Vann, W. L. C. Vann.

Oak Grove—G. A. Chunn, T. A. Anderson, J. A. McCombs.

Pleasant Ridge—O. J. Waldrop, J. V. Huey, T. Robertson, E. B. Waldrop.

Ruhama—E. B. Teague, R. J. Waldrop, H. F. Wood, R. W. Beck.

Salem—

Springville—J. T. Herring, G. M. Truss.

Jones Valley—Josephus Vines.

Williamsburg—

Warrior—J. M. Doss.

Pratt Mines—J. M. Huey, S. G. Robertson.

Woodlawn—F. M. Wood, O. G. Evans.

Dolomite—J. A. Sartain, R. Y. Robertson.

Avondale—W. A. Hobson, R. D. Faggard, Joel Faggard.

Bessemer—J. B. Glenn.

The Association then proceeded to the election of its officers for the present session, which resulted in the choice of A. J. Waldrop, Moderator; E. B. Waldrop, Clerk; R. W. Beck, Corresponding Secretary; G. G. Miles, Treasurer.

Called for newly constituted and other churches wishing to unite with this body; thereupon Bessemer, Avondale and the 3d Baptist church, Birmingham, were received and delegates names enrolled.

Called for correspondence from other Associations.

Tuscaloosa Association—J. L. Champion.

Mud Creek Association—J. N. NcFall, J. M. Knight, M. M. Guinn.

Rev. J. Shackleford, D. D., editor of Alabama Baptist, being present, was invited to a seat.

Rev. S. R. C. Adams, of the Muscle Shoals Association, was also received and invited to a seat.

The following committees were then appointed by the Moderator:

On Finance—H. H. Brown, J. L. Thurman, F. M. Wood.

On Documents—O. J. Waldrop, J. M. Russell, W. L. C. Vann.

On Nominations—R. W. Beck, W. A. Hobson, J. M Huey.

On Devotions—Pastor and Deacons of Dolomite church, M. T. Branham and J. T. Herring from the body.

On Apportionment—G. T. Green, M. K. Vann, S. G. Robertson.

A motion was made by R. J. Waldrop to increase the amount asked of our Association by the State Mission Board 50 per cent. On being discussed it was ascertained that $1,500.00 was the amount asked for, and this amount was adopted.

On motion of D. I. Purser it was agreed to hold a night session and meet at 7:30 p. m., and that the Report on Education be read and discussed at that hour.

On motion, adjourned. Prayer by S. R. C. Adams.

NIGHT SESSION.

7:30 P. M. The house was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer was offered by G. A. Chunn.

The Report on Education was read by R. W. Beck, and on motion for adoption was discussed by D. I. Purser, E. B. Teague, H. H. Brown, J. J. D. Renfroe. These brethren all made stirring speeches in favor of education and the duty of all the Baptists of the State to rally to the support of Howard College.

On motion adjourned till to-morrow 9 A. M. Prayer by W. A. Hobson.

SECOND DAY.

MORNING SESSION.

Saturday, September 24, 9 A. M. The Moderator called the house to order. Prayer by the Moderator.

The subject of education was further discussed by H. H. Brown, Dr. J. Shackelford, J. J. D. Renfroe. During the discussion, the following pledges were made for ministerial education:

First Church, Birmingham	$50 00
Women's Benevolent Society of First Church	25 00
Second Church	25 00
Third Church	15 00
South Side Church	50 00
Woodlawn	25 00
Canaan	5 00
Cahaba	10 00
Central	10 00
Enon	5 00
New Prospect	5 00
Pleasant Ridge	20 00
Ruhama	35 00
R. W. Beck	15 00
Springville	10 00
Warrior	10 00
Pratt Mines	10 00
Oak Grove	5 00
Dolomite	15 00
Avondale	25 00
Bessemer	10 00

A motion was offered by H. H. Brown to amend the Report on Education by striking out that part of the report which refers to free tuition by the State, which was lost. The report was then adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee to report upon the subject of Education at this session of your body will not stray very far from the familiar beaten track so often pursued by others on similar occasions—a track which has been lighted at every step by the flashes of genius and the gems of thought. To attempt to add brightness to the lustre that has already been showered upon the subject of education, by poet, and sage, and orator, would be as futile as an attempt to add to the beauty of the rose, or the glory of the lily, or to render more delicate the perfumes that exhales from the violet. But while we may keep near to the beaten pathway, still we hope to say something to stir your noblest ambitions, and to arouse your high-

HOWARD COLLEGE

est aspirations. The love of distinction, the ambition to excel, finds a place in every generous bosom. The man who is content to live simply in himself, and just through his allotted years, is as vulgar as the soil on which he treads. The voice of praise and admiration is sweet to all—from the dwarfed Esquimaux of the North to the Patagonian of the South, from the erudite and classical Greek of the Orient to him whose home is at the setting sun—this desire to make life commendable is found. This question of education is of paramount importance; not only to us as a denomination, not only to the teachers of the day, but to the community at large. It is the pillar of the great structure of state, which shall hold it up in all its grandness, religiously, politically, and educationally, or let it crumble in the dust of ignominous defeat and ruin. Education is the fundamental principle which underlies every calling of life, and, if education sinks to a low scale, as a matter of course, all our common interests go down with it. Hence the assertion that this is the question of all questions to us, as a people, to-day. And, the man or woman who will arouse our people to a full sense of their obligations in this matter, and lead them into the light of the fact that education is the only means of fitting their children to take care of themselves, of securing their development, of cultivating all their faculties so as to produce the nearest approximation to the perfect mental stature of men and women, will achieve that distinction which will place his or her name among the stars that glow in the canopy of fame, undimmed by the darkness of a thousand storms, unchanged by the lapse of a thousand years. Those who have reflected most upon education, and the work of teaching, have been most impressed with their importance and difficulty. A distinguished educator has said, "indeed, all that I understand, as to this particular, is only this that the greatest and most important difficulty of human science is the nurture and education of children." Dr. Horace Mann no doubt well weighed his words when he said that "education was the profoundest of all sciences and the most difficult of all arts." And, yet, in no other work of life is the disposition between the preparation for the work and the difficulty of its accomplishment so great as in that of teaching. It would seem that the "greatest and most important difficulty" requires the least preparation, and the "most difficult of all arts" requires the least skill in execution. In no other profession, perhaps, are gray hairs and ripe scholarship at so great a discount in the presence of youthful inexperience and presumptuous learning. General incompetency has completely eliminated efficiency from the list of pedagogical qualifications. This is more especially true of our own country, where the remuneration for teaching is so meagre that it offers no encouragement for teachers to prepare themselves for the work, and the art of teaching, if it comes at all, is expected to come by nature. The great majority of teachers have entered upon their work not only without ever having enjoyed opportunities for adequate preparation, but, to a great extent, without being led, by any means to understand or appreciate its importance or its necessities. Most teachers, like the great masses of the people, consider teaching a kind of universal profession that adapts itself to everybody without regard to intellectual or instructive capabilities—that it is an occupation that a person may take up when he or she finds his or her qualifications unfit for any other vocation. If a farmer wishes his soil analized and fertilizers prescribed, he goes straight for the chemist who is thoroughly qualified for the profession; if your child is sick you want the most skillful physician known to the medical fraternity, and, if you have an important case at law you will not higgle about the fee required to secure the services of the most astute attorney, to plead your cause. But these very same people will turn their children loose to be educated

by any one who may propose to teach in their community, without ever stopping for a moment to question the qualifications of such an one. It would be just as wise, in the country at large, to encourage the man who defined hazardous to be a "female hazard" to get out an unabridged dictionary as it is in parents to encourage persons thus utterly incompetent to fill the all important place of educators of their children. And, we are constrained, just here, to say that the public school system of our country and free tuition programme of our State institutions, coupled with the evils noted above, comprise the great obstruction of the day to truly genuine education. The child is placed in incompetent hands to start with, because of its cheapness, and, when he is ready for college, as we say, he comes from the school with his moral and intellectual nature dwarfed, and is pushed in some State institution because of its free tuition, and, when he is turned out a graduate, the probabilities are that his manhood has been lost sight of because he has been taught all the while to get something for nothing, and his intellect has been trained and developed without a basis of moral character to stand upon. Free tuition is a stab at moral and religious training, and will, sooner or later, prove itself a curse and a shame to the manhood and self-respect of our Commonwealth. That education, merely secular, in disregard of morals, and religion, and that it merely arms with power for mischief, is not sufficiently realized by our people. Yet nothing can be truer I enunciate this proposition, that you cannot have character without morals; you cannot have morals without religion, and you cannot have religion without the Bible. The religion of Christ is the only real conservator of our institutions, social, political, and moral, and the development of man morally, and mentally, under the teachings of God's book is the only genuine education. How often do we see the intellectual giant standing on the Lilliputian moral character. And, as secular education is rapidly becoming the almost exclusive aim of the State schools, the great task lying before our Church schools is to make the most of Bible education.

Why shall not Christian schools universally make God's book a text book as well as Cæsar and Virgil and Homer ? Does any book contain better English, better history, or poetry, or literature of any species ? Is there, therefore, any better text book even as mere literature ? And the subjects treated are of more moment than all things else. Yet, but a school here and there makes the Bible any serious part of its course of instruction. Indeed, have any Christian schools deserving the name done so. We need schools of every grade, redolent of Christian influence derived immediately from the Bible.

Since last we met, Howard College, that grand institutioa of learning, so glorious in its past history, and so promising for future usefulness, has been located near the centre of our own Association. Upon the grounds of the old Ruhama academy are now nearing completion the buildings, which are to be occupied by the officers and students of this noble institution and its next session will open there October 4. It is our college and calls for our most earnest support and it ought to have it. Let us rally around it, and send our boys to it, and influence others to go there where they will receive an education that will fit them not only for the highest type of usefullness in this life, but for the better enjoyment of the life that is to come. By the great Baptist Brotherhood of Alabama it has been committed to our care and keeping. God has placed this grand power for good in our midst, and let us not prove recreant to our trust.

We have also at Marion, in the Judson, and at Tuscaloosa. in the Central, grand institutions for the education of our girls, where we may commit their training, and when they are returned to us, they will come

back cultivated, refined and noble women. And we need others all over our land as feeders to these, at least grading up in that direction. Native buoyancy will be patronized when these are present, and discovered where it is latent. Away from these institutions it will be left to waste its fragrance on the desert air.

Respectfully submitted,

R. W. BECK, Chairman.

An opportunity was afforded Dr. Shackleford to present the claims of the *Alabama Baptist*, which he did. Some remarks were also made in regard to the paper by Dr. Renfroe.

The report on Home Missions was made by G. G. Miles.

On motion of H. H. Brown, postponed the discussion of the report on Home Missions till the other reports on missions be read, and consider the subject of missions under one general head.

On motion it was agreed to consider these reports at the hour of 2 P. M.

The Executive Committee of the Canaan Association made their report, which was adopted.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

During the past year we have had five missionaries employed for a part or all their time. W. C. Cleaveland, missionary pastor at Woodlawn; J. J. D. Renfroe, missionary pastor at South Side church; W. A. Hobson, missionary pastor of 2d church and mission in Avondale; Jas. Hogan, missionary pastor of 3d church, and J. C. Hudson, at Pratt Mines, for a part of the year. The others are continuing at the above named churches. In order to do this work, it became necessary for the chairman of the committee to obligate himself for the payment of the salaries of these pastors in the event that the churches should fail to do so.

The salaries have been paid up to date, but the treasury is now depleted. The work done has been blessed of God, and instead of retrenchment we should enlarge our work and increase our forces.

AMOUNTS PAID.

W. A. Hobson,	Jan. 6th, 1887	.....	$ 50 00
James Hogan,	" "	.....	16 65
J. C. Hudson,	" "	.....	16 65
W. A Hobson,	April 5th, 1887	.....	75 00
J. J. D. Renfroe,	" "	.....	50 00
W. C. Cleaveland	" "	.....	50 00
James Hogan,	" "	.....	25 00
J. C. Hudson,	" "	.....	25 00
W. A. Hobson,	July 4th, "	.....	75 00
J. J. D. Renfroe,	" "	.....	50 00
W C. Cleaveland,	" "	.....	50 00
James Hogan,	" "	.....	25 00

Report of Executive Committee—Continued.

J. C. Hudson, July 4, 1887	$ 25 00
Benfords board missionary students	27 00
Rent for S. S. in Avondale	32 00
Balance on Chambless salary	83 80
	$676 10

Respectfully submitted,

D. I. PURSER, Chairman.

In connection with the above report, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That in view of the great importance of the work needed to be done by our denomination in and around the city of Birmingham, the Executive Committee of this Association be instructed to procure if possible from the State Mission Board as much as $2,000.00 for the benefit of said work for the ensuing year.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be instructed to organize some systematic plan for the better securing of contributions for the benificent operations of our Association and give their plans to the churches, either by circular or through the press.

The Treasurer's report was read and adopted.

REPORT OF TREASURER.

MINUTES.

Dr.

Sept. 26, From Finance Committe	$48 45

Cr.

Sept. 26, By E. B. Waldrop	48 45

MISSIONS, 1887.

Dr.

Sept. 26, 1886 Sabbath Collections	$40 82
1887. From Finance Committee	33 90
Apr. 4, Dolomite church	15 50
Apr. 13, From Pleasant Ridge	5 55
Total amount received	95 77
Apr. 20, Amount over paid	2 00
	97 77

Cr.

Apr. 20, D. I. Purser, President Canaan Board	97 77

A. J. WALDROP, COLPORTAGE FUND.

Dr.

1886.

Sept. 26, From Finance Committe	$15 00

Cr.

Oct. 5, W. B. Crumpton	15 00

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Dr.

1886.	
Sept. 26, From A. J. Nunley	$ 5 00
Nov. 26, From Pratt Mines church	5 00
1887—Jan. 14, From East Birmingham church	10 00
Jan 14, From Warrior church	5 00
Jan. 14, From Ruhama church	15 00
Apr. 1, From New Prospect church	5 70
Apr. 1, From Central church	6 60
Apr. 1, From Salem church	4 15
Apr. 1, E. B. Waldrop	5 00
	61 45
Sept. 24, From Dolomite	10 00
Total	71 45

Cr.

Apr. 1, By order of Ministerial Board to W. T. Branham and L. A. Smith	46 45
1887, To amount over paid for missions	2 00
Sept. 23, To balance on hand	23 00
Total	71 45
Dolomite for Missions	1 90

Respectfully Submitted,
G. T. GREEN, Treasurer.

On motion of E. B. Waldrop adjourned till 2 P. M. Prayer by D. I. Purser.

EVENING SESSION.

2 o'clock P. M. The Moderator called the body to order. Prayer by J. C. Hudson.

The report on Foreign Missions was made by J. C. Hudson.

The report on State Missions was made by W. L. C. Vann. The subject of missions was then discussed by J. C. Hudson and J. J. D. Renfroe in very able and eloquent addresses. At the suggestion of R. W. Beck, Dr. Teague was asked to lead the Association in a special prayer that God would give to us the spirit of our Master in prosecuting the work of missions.

The reports were then adopted.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The origin of this board dates back more than forty years ago. Its first report was made to the Southern Baptist Convention by Rev. Russell Holman, whose interest in its work ceased only with his life. It was then, indeed in its infancy, occupying only about five States in the Union, with only six missionaries in the field, spreading the glad tidings of our Savior. But this was God's work, and we have every reason to be truly grateful for the progress that has attended its history. Over three thousand messengers are now going forth in the land under the auspices of our great Captain, preaching the everlasting gospel to dying men. The work that it has acomplished during its past history is one of which we need not be ashamed. Nearly all the churches of prominence south of the Potomac, whose origin comes within the history of the Home Mission Board, have, in the days of their infancy, found it a nursing mother. It has gone among the untutored tribes of the West and made the wilderness rejoice. The red man has been led to forget his savage ways, and to-day thousands are clothed in their right minds and have accepted the Saviour.

The work done in Cuba, which is nurtured and fostered by the Home Mission Board, is one of which our denomination should be proud. Our Bro. Diaz has organized there three churches, baptised three hundred and twenty-five converts, established four Sunday Schools and organized three day schools. Thus the waste places are being looked after and supplied by this Board.

While this Board is building up weak churches and sustaining missionaries and increased demands are being made on its treasury, is no less a reason why we should remember that our contributions are very much needed in sustaining the work. During last year the amount of money expended by this board for Missions was $86,827.05, for church building $35,270.15, and the work goes on, and broader and broader are its fields spreading; bringing increased demand for aid in spreading the glad tidings of an exalted Savior.

Brethren, we should take courage and thank God for his mercies, and do what our hands find to do in the prosecution of this grand work. With the marked success that has attended the past and the flattering outlook that seems to dawn the future, we can but hope that the day is not distant when the influence of the holy spirit will not only be felt throughout all nations, but the blessed gospel with all its force and power will predominate, and satanic influences will yield up the victory.

Respectfully submitted,

G. G. MILES, Chairman.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Let us direct your attention to three lines of thought: the extent of the field; the demand for supported laborers; and the measure of our duty in this work.

I. Upon the first thought—as to the extent of the field—we must report that our people need *New Testament conviction.* The Lord Jesus, the Saving Messenger of the new Covenant, is the founder of Missions. He says: "The Field is the World."—Matt. 13:38. Even the Old Testament foreshadows this thought in many places, especially in some of the Messianic Psalms, and prophetic visions of the spiritual kingdom. In the 2d Psalm, at the 8th verse, God the Father makes promise to the Son in these words: "Ask of me, and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy posses-

sions." The 86th Psalm at the 9th verse, makes prophetic declaration of this great truth: "All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord, and shall glorify thy name.

Paul, the great foreign missionary of New Testament times, foresaw that men would dispute about the unity of the human family, and so, for men who take God's word for their guide, he put an end to the controversy in the following words: "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of Heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands as though He needed any thing, seeing He giveth to all life and breath and all things; and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth."—Acts 17:24-26. The scriptural unity of the nations of men is fixed in the *oneness* of the *blood*; and therefore the learned descendants of the monkey have a wide field in discussing the hair and skin, bone and muscle, of the different tribes of men. Let them talk their learned foolishness; but let us take heed to the divine wisdom, and preach the glad tidings to "all nations." How vast is the field! The isles of the sea, Italy, Africa, China. China is by far the largest and most important heathen country in the world.

II. As to the second thought, the demand for supported laborers, it is well known that the Macedonian cry: "Come over and help us!" comes up from every land. Besides, there are many, both of men and women, who are saying: "Here am I; send me." Our mission boards ask where is the money? We are obliged to answer: "The money is in the hands of the Lord's people."

III. We come, therefore, to the third thought on the subject, the measure of our duty in this work; and we confess that it is our duty to give, "as the Lord has prospered us;" and the contributions reported indicate that but few, if any of us, have come up to the full measure of our duty.

J. C. Hudson,
F. M. Wood,
W. Franklin.
Committee.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Missions to the destitution of our own country within the bounds of the Southern Baptist Convention, are confided to the Home Mission Board and the State Board. Dr. I. T. Tichenor is secretary of the former, Rev. W. B. Crumpton, Marion, Ala., is secretary of the latter. The former board looks to destitution in the lower centres of population; the latter to destitution in every portion of the State.

The appointments of the missionaries are made by the State Board, located at Selma, Dr. J. W. Frost, President, who also determines the amount of salary, after consultation with intelligent brethren in the locality where work is assigned. It is desirable and convenient that funds for the support of the missionaries be sent to the Corresponding Secretary, at Marion, as the rule, exceptions being made in special and peculiar cases. This simplifies the work, promotes facility and generally proves most satisfactory to all concerned.

The destitution in the State has never been adequately met, and demands enlarged liberalities. The State Board ask, for the current year, from the Caanan Association, $1,482. The $2,000 proposed by vote of the Association, therefore, exceeds the amount called for by the Board. This is most encouraging.

A little system and energy will easily compass our aim. If half the system invoked in our secular business were forthcoming, we should be surprised at the results. Frequent consultations by the officers of the

churches, adjusting everything to the emergencies arising, are respectfully suggested for the consideration of every church. The envelope system works well, wherever faithfully tried, and gives employment especially to the younger members, that have proved exceedingly grateful.

Respectfully submitted,
W. L. C. VANN, for Committee.

On motion Rev. J. H. Foster, Jr., from the Tuscaloosa Association was invited to a seat.

The Committee on Devotion reported as follows :

Preaching at Baptist church, 7:30 P. M., by E. B. Teague, D. D. Sunday School Mass Meeting, 9:30 A. M. to-morrow, conducted by R. W. Beck. 11 A. M., Missionary Sermon by J. C. Hudson. 7:30 P. M., Sermon by Rev. J. H. Foster, Jr. Methodist church, 11 A. M., Sermon by Rev. W. A. Hobson. Pratt Mines Baptist church, 11 A M., Sermon by Rev. G. A. Chunn.

S. R. C. ADAMS, Chairman.

The report on Sunday schools was read and adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your committee on the subject of Sabbath Schools beg leave to submit the following report: The attendance this year within the limits of this Association is 218 more than the number last year. This is somewhat encouraging; though there are about 1,700 Baptists in our borders, yet only a small number over two-thirds attend Sunday School, Our attendance ought at least to equal the number of the church members.

Statistics show that wherever we have missionaries at a distance, that Sunday school attendance and church membership are about equal in this respect. Therefore we should manifest greater interest. We should advise some plan to enthuse greater interest in Sunday Schools in our midst, so as to arrive at a more hearty co-operation of churches and Sunday Schools. Essays and short talks by Christian people after recitations is one means of attaining greater interest in the grand and responsible work. Respectfully submitted,

R. G. ROBERTSON,
E. G. DANIEL,
J. T. HERRING,
Committee

The Report on Temperance was called for. No report.

The Report on Documents was read and adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

Your committee beg leave to make the following report :

We find that the churches have in general made more full and succinct reports than for some years past. The last report suggests that the Clerk of the Association prepare blank forms—and we also notice that, at the suggestion of B. S. C., Bro. Wm. A. Davis, statistical secretary, has furnished a few blanks which have been distributed among a few of the churches, in which a very complete statistical record may be made. We advise the churches to patronize the "Alabama Baptist" more freely

than the letters indicate. We must help our State organ. We become better acquainted with each other, and learn the workings of our denomination. We suggest, also, that the S. S. of our Association patronize liberally the publication of Sunday school literature at Atlanta, Kind Words and accompanying literature.

We find the following churches ask for the next sitting of the Association: Cahaba, Warrior, Central, Oak Grove, Pratt Mines and Woodlawn. Respectfully submitted,

O. J. WALDROP,
W. L. C. VANN,
Committee.

The Report on Finance was adopted.

The Committee on Finance submit the following Report:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

CHURCHES	Missions	General Missions	Minutes	Asociational Purposes	Ministerial Education
Firrst Church, Birmingham	4 00	.....	5 00	.....	.....
Second Church, Birmingham	.....	.....	3 00	.....	.....
Third Church, Birmingham	.....	6 35	1 50	50	4 00
Woodlawn	.....	.....	4 00	.....	.....
Avondale	.....	.....	2 00	.....	.....
Central	.....	.....	2 50	.....	.....
Ruhama	.....	.....	4 00	.....	.....
Dolomite	.....	.....	3 00	.....	.....
Oak Grove	2 80	.....	2 60	.....	.....
South Side	.....	.....	3 00	.....	.....
New Prospect	.....	.....	3 00	.....	.....
Salem	8 00	.....	2 00	.....	2 50
Warrior	.....	.....	1 50	.....	.....
Enon	.....	.....	1 00	50	.....
Pratt Mines	3 75	.....	1 70	.....	.....
Pleasant Ridge	.....	30 45	2 50	.....	10 00
Cahaba	.....	.....	3 65	.....	.....
Springville	.....	20 80	2 00	.....	5 00
Canaan	5 00	.....	2 00	.....	1 25
Bessemer	.....	1 50	1 50	.....	.....

Ministerial Education	$ 22.75
Associational Purposes	1.00
Minutes	51.45
Foreign Missions	2.80
Missions Generally	79.30
Total	$157.30

H. H. BROWN, Chairman.

The Moderator appointed the following Standing Committees:

Home Missions.—H. H. Brown, F. M. Woods, E. L. Morrow.

Foreign Missions.—J. M. Huey, G. M. Truss, D. H. Vann.

State Missions.—D. I. Purser, J. F. Rogers, S. T. Vann.

Education.—R. J. Waldrop, J. J. D. Renfroe, E. B. Teague.

Temperance.—H. F. Wood, M. K. Vann, J. A. McCombs.

Church Improvements.—G. T. Green, J. M. Doss, S. G. Robertson.

The Committee on Apportionment made their report as follows:

First Baptist Church of Birmingham	$ 446.25
Oak Grove	60.35
Dolomite	56.95
Pratt Mines	43.35
Bessemer	11.05
Salem	79.00
Springville	76.00
Pleasant Ridge	66.00
Ruhama	121.00
New Prospect	87.00
Woodlawn	62.05
South Side	121.55
Second Baptist Church	34.00
Central	59.50
Canaan	40.00
Cahaba	123.25
Jones' Valley	12.00
Third Church, Birmingham	69.70
Bethany	40.00

On motion of H. H. Brown the Executive Committee was instructed to arrange a programme for the business of the next session of this Association, assigning to each subject a certain hour and appointing some brother to open the discussion on each question; to have a sufficient number of said programmes printed for the use of the Association, and furnish each brother appointed to open discussions a copy of the printed programmes at least one month before the convening of the next Association.

The Committee on Nominations made their report.

Time and place of meeting of next Association, 10 a. m. on Friday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1888, with the Pratt Mines Church.

Introductory Sermon, J. J. D. Renfroe, D. D. Alternate, W. A. Hobson.

Missionary Sermon, E. B. Teague, D. D. Alternate, G. A. Chunn.

Executive Committee: D. I. Purser, chairman, J. J. D. Renfroe, A. J. Waldrop, E. B. Teague, G. G. Miles, W. H. Wood, J. M. Henry, R. Y. Robertson, R. W. Beck.

Delegates to State Convention: J. J. D. Renfroe, E. B. Teague, D. I. Purser, A. J. Waldrop, J. M. Huey, G. G. Miles, R. J. Waldrop, W. C. Ward, R. H. Sterrett, E. B. Waldrop, G. A. Chunn.

Correspondents to other Associations:

Cahaba Valley—R. W. Inzer, M. T. Branham, J. T. Herring.

Sulphur Springs—E. B. Waldrop, J. M. Huey, G. A. Chunn.

Shelby—E. B. Teague, O. J. Waldrop, J. A. Stratton.

Tuscaloosa—D. I. Purser, G. T. Green, H. H. Brown.

Mud Creek—O. J. Waldrop, J. M. Huey, J. B. Glenn.

Warrior River—W. R. Dean, R. J. Waldrop, D. I. Purser.

On motion the Clerk was instructed to have five hundred copies of minutes printed and distributed among the churches, and that he be paid fifteen dollars for his services, that the balance of the minute fund, if any, be turned over to the Treasurer of the Association for missions.

The following resolution was adopted:

That the thanks of the body be tendered to the Dolomite church and community for the very hearty and hospitable manner in which they have entertained this body.

After singing and giving the parting hand, the Association adjourned, to meet with the Pratt Mines church, Jefferson county, Ala., on Friday, 10 a. m. before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1888.

A. J. WALDROP,
Moderator.

E. B. WALDROP,
Clerk.

COMMITTEE FOR DISTRICT MEETINGS.

1st District—M. T. Branham, chairman. G. A. Chunn, Williamson Franklin and J. M. Frazier.

2nd District—G. G. Miles, chairman. W. L. C. Vann, F. M. Wood and H. H. Brown.

3d District—O. J. Waldrop, R. Y. Robertson, J. V. Huey and Jos. Vines.

SABBATH EXERCISES.

10 a. m. The exercises were conducted by R. W. Beck. Addresses were made by R. W. Beck and H. H. Brown.

11 a. m. The Missionary Sermon was preached in the Baptist church by J. C. Hudson, from 1st Timothy, 3:15, and a collection taken up for missions, in cash, to the amount of $21.55.

Preaching at the Methodist church at the same hour by W. A. Hobson.

At 7:30 p. m. preaching at the Baptist church by J. H. Foster, Jr.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and New Testament, are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of Election and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world.

4. We belive in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's incapability by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the saints shall be preserved in grace, and never fall finally away.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by immersion is the Apostolic mode.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and in the general Judgment and that the felicity of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel but one who is regularly baptised, called, and comes under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery.

12. We believe that none but regularly baptised members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

STATISTICS OF CANAAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1887.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POST OFFICE.	Membership last reported.	INCREASE BY			DECREASE BY			Present Membership.	SUNDAY SCHOOL.	
						Baptism.	Letter.	Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Death.		Officers and Teachers.	†Pupils.
†1st Baptist, Birm'g'm	Jefferson	D. I. Purser	G. G. Miles	Birmingham	484	7	88		58	2	6	523	20	300
*Bethany	St. Clair	R. W. Inzer		Springville	50							50		
2d Baptist, Birm'g'm	Jefferson	W. A. Hobson		Birmingham	30							40		75
Canaan	"	V. A. Wilson		Jonesboro	52	4			3		1	48	3	38
Cahaba	"	S. R. C. Adams		Trussville	141	10	11	2	13	1	2	145	7	70
Central	"	M. T. Branham		Argo	69	2	4		3			70	4	40
Enon	"	R. W. Inzer		Morris Station	92	5	3		8		3	56		
*Hopewell	Blount	J. W. Dorman		Village Springs	55							55		
New Prospect	Jefferson	M. T. Branham		Huffman	79	10	16		1		2	103		22
Pleasant Ridge	"	E. B. Waldrop		Woodward	78	1	3		1		1	79	6	40
Ruhama	"	E. B. Teague	H. F. Wood	Woodlawn	147		6		15		3	143	8	60
Salem	"	M. T. Branham	J. H. Hagood	Mt. Pinson	84	5	4			1	1	87	3	30
Springville	St. Clair	J. A. Glenn		Springville	90	3	1		4			90	4	35
*Williamsburg	Jefferson				15							15		
*Jones Valley	"				33							33		
*Warrior	"	S. R. C. Adams	W. R. Dean	Warrior	84							84		
Pratt Mines	"	"		Pratt Mines	55	2	9		5	7	2	51		75
Oak Grove	"	G. A. Chunn	W. B. McCombs	New Castle	36	25	10					71	3	40
Dolemite	"	S. R. C. Adams	J. A. Sartain	Dolemite	37	19	13		6		3	61	7	70
South Side, Birm'g'm	"	J. J. D. Renfroe	J. A. Stratten	Birmingham	98	4	69		15		3	153	10	74
Woodlawn	"	W. C. Cleaveland	F. M. Wood	Woodlawn	62		18		5		2	73	7	85
3d Baptist, Birm'g'm	"	James Hogan	J. G. Lowery	Birmingham								82		
Avondale	"	J. A. Hobson												
Bessemer	"	W. S. Culpeper	M. G. Campbell									13	4	30
						87	255	2	137	11	29	2,135	86	1,084

*Churches marked thus sent no letter to the Association, and the statistics are taken from former reports made to the Association.
†PREACHING SABBATHS.—Every Sabbath